



# THE COMPTROLLER'S CORNER

True Professionals—Today and Tomorrow

**C**ongratulations to the recipients of the Air Force Financial Management and Comptroller annual awards and the Air Force Audit Agency awards for fiscal year 1998. As usual, the competition was intense, and the panels reviewing the nominations had the extremely difficult job of selecting the best in each category. The individuals and groups selected, along with all of the nominees, are the true professionals of today's financial management community.

The accomplishments of these award winners make clear that we have a well-trained workforce that can handle the unexpected. For example, one winning organization learned to plan and execute budgets for an Air Expeditionary Force while at the same time evaluating alternatives for the privatization of military family housing units. Another lived up to the title miracle workers by assuming a base's entire financial and banking operation during the longest strike in Air Force history while also providing support to a major contingency operation.

Our challenge is to insure that we sustain our high level of training in the face of rapid change and increased public scrutiny. To meet that challenge, we are specifying the Guidelines for Professional Development that are outlined in the lead article in this magazine. These guidelines focus on the desirable background for FM professionals in areas including general education experience, technical and professional military education, test-based certification, and annual continuing professional education.

I believe these guidelines will assist individuals in preparing for increased responsibility within our career field. I ask that you study the guidelines carefully, provide us comments if you have them, and then use these guidelines to plan your own professional development. That way you will be among the true FM professionals of tomorrow.

**ROBERT F. HALE**  
**Assistant Secretary of the Air Force**  
**(Financial Management and Comptroller)**